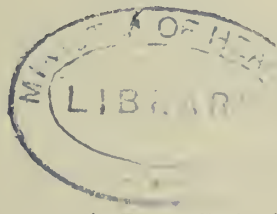


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URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year
1953.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

Committee: June 1953 - May 1954

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman:
Councillor R.G. Tayler

Members:
Councillor J.R. Booth
" O.T. Bowton
" Mrs. H.D. Robinson
" A.D. Rogers

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor T.J. Rice, J.P. (ex officio)

Meeting: Monday of the week preceding the date of the
Council Meeting (held on the last Tuesday
in each month) at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

L.H.B. LIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector:

KENNETH V. SPROAT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., (a) (b) (c)
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and the Shops Act.

Clerk:

Mrs. E.M. Rezelman.

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board as Sanitary Inspector.
 - (b) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
 - (c) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
-

INDEX

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
Bacteriological Examinations	21
Bakehouses	20
Dairies	20
Essex County Council Act 1952	3
Factories	14
Houseboats and Jetties	15
Housing Statistics	17
Ice Cream	21
Inspection of Council Houses	11
Meat and Other Foods	22
Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites	15
Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis	2
Oysters	22
Pollution of Watercourses	6
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1953	5
Registration of Food Premises	21
Registration of Manufacturers or Vendors of Ice Cream	21
Rodent Control	15
Sanitary Inspection of the Area	7
Shops	17
Statistics and Social Conditions	1
Summary of Inspections	8
Tabular Statement of the Causes of Death	3
Tuberculosis - New Cases and Mortality	2
Vital Statistics	2
Water Supplies	6

VITAL STATISTICS

		M.	F.	
Live Births	Total	22	30	(Birth rate per thousand
	Legitimate	22	30	{ of estimated resident
	Illegitimate	0	0	{ population: 13.7
Deaths		25	22	(Crude death rate per
				{ thousand of estimated
				{ resident population: 12.4

This includes 12 Inward and 1 Outward Transferable Deaths.

There were no deaths either from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

There were 9 deaths from cancer (all ages), but none from either measles, whooping cough, or diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Tabular statement of Deaths classified according to ages:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Under 25	0
25 and under 35	1
35 and under 45	2
45 and under 55	4
55 and under 65	8
65 and under 75	15
75 and over	17
	<u>47</u>

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Number of cases notified:	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Cerebro-Spinal Fever
	7	1	1
	Ac. Lethargica	Pneumonia	Measles
	1	8	7
		Puerperal Pyrexia	
		1	

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

There was one new case notified (pulmonary - female). There were no deaths from this disease.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer, malignant disease	3	4	7
Cancer of lung	2	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	4	7
Heart disease	9	8	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1	4
Pulmonary embolus	-	1	1
Senility	2	2	4
Motor Neurone disease	1	-	1
Accidents			
Asphyxia due to inhalation of food			
(Inquest)	1	-	1
Fracture of skull, fell in dyke	1	-	1
(Inquest)	-	1	1
Burns	-	1	1
Drowning	-	1	1
	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>47</u>

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT 1952

Apart from a very few Sections this Act came into operation on the 1st April 1953. The following provisions will probably be of interest:-

Power to require vacation of premises during fumigation - a Section giving wider scope to the use of Section 83 (3) of the Public Health Act 1936 (Cleansing of filthy or verminous premises). The provision of shelter or other accommodation for persons temporarily displaced is now obligatory and must be made free of charge.

Prohibition of selling of verminous articles -- a section prohibiting a dealer preparing for sale, selling or offering or exposing for sale or depositing for sale or preparation for sale any verminous household articles. Power is given to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector to cause the disinfecting or destruction of such articles, the Council being empowered to recover the expenses incurred.

Restriction on attendance at public places etc. - a section extending the provisions of Section 148 of the Public Health Act 1936 (imposing a penalty for the exposure of persons and articles liable to convey notifiable disease) so as to make it an offence for a person having the care of a person with notifiable disease, or a child contact, to cause or permit that person to expose others to risk of infection.

Exclusion of children from places of entertainment or assembly - enables the Council on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, and with a view to preventing the spread of a notifiable disease, to prohibit the admission of persons under prescribed age (which means such age not exceeding 16 as may be prescribed by a Notice) to places of entertainment or assembly for a time specified in the Notice.

Compensation for stopping employment to prevent spread of disease - enables the Council to compensate persons discontinuing their employment, at the written request of the Medical Officer of Health, to prevent the spread of a notifiable disease or a milkborne disease or food poisoning.

Prohibition of tuberculous persons from handling food - enables the Medical Officer, or any other person authorised for the purposes of this Section by the Council, to prohibit persons in advanced stages of tuberculosis from being employed in the cooking, preparation, handling or selling of food for human consumption.

Amendment of Section 24 of the Public Health Act 1936 enabling emergency work in respect of maintaining certain public sewers to be undertaken on the authority of the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector.

Delegation of power under Section 48 of the Public Health Act 1936 to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector to examine and test drains etc.

Summary power enabling the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector to remedy stopped up drains etc. after 48 hours notice.

Noise Nuisance - Provides for any excessive or unreasonable noise which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance to be a statutory nuisance.

Smoke from Industrial Furnaces. - Makes it an offence to instal any furnace unless it is so far as practicable capable of being operated continuously without emitting smoke.

Registration of Hawkers of Food and their premises.

Notification of premises for sale etc. of food. - 14 days notice has to be given to the Council of the intention to use premises for sale etc. of food.

Power to remove from register or refuse registration of ice cream manufacturers etc. if the Council is satisfied that the public health is or is likely to be endangered.

Slaughter of animals otherwise than for human consumption - 12 hours advance notification is required to be submitted to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector of the slaughter of animals (owing to emaciation or disease) otherwise than for sale for human consumption within the meaning of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS 1953

These Regulations also came into operation on the 1st April 1953 and superseded the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1927 and the Infectious Diseases (London) Regulations 1927.

The provisions about action to be taken by Local Authorities and Medical Officers of Health against the risk of food poisoning applied under the old Regulations to enteric fever and dysentery. They now apply to typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning. (The phrase "typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other salmonella infections" comprises the diseases previously described as "enteric fever"). Under the 1927 Regulations the steps prescribed could only be taken in relation to a person suffering from the disease in question and for the purpose of preventing such a person from continuing to work in an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink. The new Regulations go further. They provide for action to be taken not only as regards a person suffering from the disease in question but also to a person shown to be a carrier of the disease, and a person in either class may now be prevented not only from continuing to work in an occupation connected with food or drink but also from entering such an occupation. Under the 1927 Regulations again the prescribed steps concerned could not be taken until the Medical Officer of Health had reported the case concerned to the Local Authority. In the new Regulations, while the same general principle is maintained, (because action may involve the Local Authority in paying compensation under Section 278 (1) of the Public Health Act 1936) there is provision to enable a Local Authority to give its Medical Officer of Health such authorisation as will permit him to take the prescribed action in a particular case without waiting to report it - though he is required to report it at the earliest opportunity - if in his judgment this action needs to be taken as a matter of immediate urgency to prevent the spread of infection.

General authorisation was duly given.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

Throughout the year under review the public water supply to the District by the Council's Waterworks was adequate in quantity. Nine samples were taken, five being from the water going into supply, and all results were indicative of a water which was wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Ten samples were taken from private sources and it should be noted that no further closures were made during the year. The figure for the District remained at nine whilst the total number of properties served thereby was 33; of these 28 are supplied by means of pipes.

Following an adverse report on a sample taken in the Spring from a private source (at a farm) which supplies the greater number of properties, i.e. 20, informal action was taken to secure the fencing off of the two wells concerned in order to prevent cattle gaining access to the immediate surroundings. The cover of one of the wells was also repaired. During the Autumn a sample was taken from each well in an endeavour to trace the source of pollution but the Analyst's report revealed there to be only a slight difference in their bacteriological qualities. It was therefore deemed advisable for a chlorination plant to be installed.

Reference is made later in this report to a pilot survey of housing conditions in the District. From information obtained it appeared that out of a total of 237 properties 116 had no internal water supply, whilst of these 58 were provided with a standpipe which also supplied at least one other property. In one case the only standpipe served six properties.

The proviso to sub-section 3 of Section 138 of the Public Health Act 1936, which empowers local authorities to require any occupied house to be provided with sufficient water supply, was amended by Section 108 of the Essex County Council Act 1952 so that the limit of expenditure on the part of an owner in respect of any one house was raised to £40 instead of £20 as hitherto.

Pollution of Water Courses

46 visits were made during the year in this connection, apart from a special investigation (necessitating 13 visits) into the drainage arrangements obtaining in the village of Ostend.

All properties whose cesspools overflow into roadside ditches, thus causing public nuisance, are now included on a rota for emptying purposes. A reminder is sent to the occupier that the emptier is due to call and that it will do so unless we are advised that for any particular reason it is inconvenient.

Owing to the unavoidable time lag between the giving of instructions to the cesspool emptying contractor and his arrival, it is felt that conditions in the Ostend area will not improve until a public sewer is provided and all the properties connected thereto.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number of complaints received in the Office was 341 as compared with 312 for last year. The total visits made in this connection was 439 of which 263 were to Council properties.

With reference to the inspections made on complaint in respect of premises other than Council properties, the number of defects or nuisances revealed was 80 and these are analysed in Table I.

Informal Notices were at once served on the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned but it should be noted that the three verminous premises were disinfested by request. A spray containing 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene was used in each instance.

TABLE I

General Housing defects	36
Offensive accumulations or deposits	2
Verminous premises	
Fleas	1
Bedbugs	2
Rodent infestations	
Proved	16
Suspected only	3
Blocked drains	4
Closets defective	1
Defective flushing cisterns	2
Blocked sewers	11
Defective water supply piping	2
	<u>80</u>

More detailed information as to rodent infestations is reported under the heading "Rodent Control".

Summary of Inspections

Details of the number of inspections made for various purposes are given below, together with the number of nuisances or defects found under specific headings. The total number of premises visited was 1965.

TABLE II

	<u>Inspections made</u>	<u>Nuisances or Defects found</u>
<u>Housing</u>		
Inspections	82	
Visits for the purpose	17	
Revisits re Notices served	149	
Overcrowding	1	1
Housing enquiries	32	
Visits for the purpose	10	
<u>Factories</u>		
Mechanical	14	2
Non Mechanical	4	
Bakehouses	2	1
Building operations	13	1
<u>Meat and Food</u>		
Shops - Meat	22	
Wet Fish	1	
Wet and Fried Fish	31	
General Provisions	10	
Others	38	1
Ice Cream Premises	28	
Dairies	2	
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	48	
Other Food Preparing Premises	2	
Proposed Food Premises	2	
Sampling - Ice Cream	16	
Milk	10	
Water	12	
Oysters	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried forward	547	6

TABLE II (Contd.)

	<u>Inspections made</u>	<u>Nuisances or Defects found</u>
Brought forward	547	6
<u>General Sanitation</u>		
Visits on complaint - Council		
houses	263	424
Others	176	80
Revisits re Notices served	135	
Revisits other than above	60	
Council houses - other visits	305	
Supervision of Painting	107	
Movable Dwellings	18	1
Places of Entertainment	2	
Schools	1	
Shops Act - Sanitary Conditions	79	
Private Conveniences	19	
Petroleum Acts	1	
Pollution of Water Courses	46	
Investigation - Ostend Drainage	13	
Refuse Collection and Disposal	1	
Rodent Control	662	28
Infectious Diseases	16	
Visits re Floods	38	
Interviews	190	
Miscellaneous visits	34	
Houseboats	19	
	<u>2732</u>	<u>539</u>

All housing applicants are visited by the Sanitary Inspector and a survey made of their existing accommodation. As a result of this work one case of statutory overcrowding involving six persons was discovered. However, as the overcrowding was due to family increase and application had been made to the Council for suitable alternative accommodation, no offence was committed under the Housing Act 1936.

In the following Table are summarised the Nuisances and Defects dealt with during the year:-

TABLE III

Roofs repaired	1
Rainwater gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	6
Walls repaired	2
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	5
Floors repaired	6
Woodwork in windows and doors repaired	1
Sashcords, glazing and putties repaired or renewed	3
Stoves and fire grates repaired or renewed	3
Flues and chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	5
Dampness remedied	4
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Disinfestations	3
Rodent infestations abated	27
Drainage	
Drains - Cleansed	4
Repaired	2
Inspection Chambers - Repaired	1
Provided with proper covers	3
Cesspools - Constructed	2
Provided with proper covers	3
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	1
Sewers - Cleansed	11
Maintained	1
Water Closets repaired or reconstructed	1
Flushing Cisterns repaired or renewed	2
Water Supply	
Wells repaired	2
Water supply piping or fittings repaired or renewed	2
Dustbins provided	2
Food Premises - Improvements	1
Factories and Work Places - Sanitary accommodation provided	1
Caravan Sites - Licence conditions complied with	1
	<hr/>
	108
	<hr/>

TABLE IV

. Letters sent out and Notices served in connection with the work of the Department.

Letters	538
Orders (mainly re Council House repairs)	246
Informal Notices	99
Statutory Notices	13
Other Formal Notices	32
	<hr/>
	928
	<hr/>

Inspection of Council Houses

Table V shows the various defects or items of disrepair which were the subject of complaint or were discovered as a result of inspections made and in connection with which instructions were given for the execution of the necessary repairs.

TABLE V

Exterior

Rainwater guttering and downpipes repaired or renewed	12	
Doors and windows eased and repaired	10	
Window fasteners, stays and hinges repaired	6	
Broken glass renewed	10	
∅ Roofs repaired	5	
Flues and chimney stacks repaired	9	
Louvred chimney pots fitted	2	
∅ Dampness remedied	7	
Gates and fences repaired	6	
External walls repointed or repaired	2	
Dustbins renewed	9	
Fuel bins renewed	3	
Rainwater butts renewed	1	
∅ Doors weatherproofed	10	
∅ Range chimney pipes weatherproofed	9	101

Drainage

Gullies repaired	4	
Blocked drains cleared	3	
Drain and soil ventilating pipes repaired	5	12

Interior

Broken locks or lock furniture repaired or renewed	31	
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	8	
Redecorations - New tenancies	2	
Burst cold water storage tank	1	
Kitchen Ranges - Repaired	9	
New firebricks fitted	6	
∅ Renewed	6	
∅ Replaced with open fires	12	
Rayburn Cookers - Fire bricks fitted to	22	
New bottom grates	11	
New firebox door handles	1	
Other repairs	5	
Carried forward	114	113

TABLE V (Contd.)

Interior (Contd.)

Brought forward	114	113
Open Fires - Tiled surrounds repaired	1	
Hearths repaired	6	
Firebrick backs		
Repaired	3	
Renewed	3	
New stools supplied	4	
One stool renewed	1	
Floors repaired	5	
∅ Site concrete repaired	1	
∅ Woodworm infestations	2	
Faulty electrical fittings repaired or renewed	15	155

Water Supplies

Ball valves repaired to - Water Waste Preventers	28	
Storage Tanks	19	
Tanks repaired	6	
Perished tap washers renewed	15	
∅ Hot and cold water tanks renewed	10	
Hot water supply piping repaired or renewed	8	
Cold do. do. do.	4	
Stopcocks repaired or renewed	2	92

Sanitary Facilities

Brick wash coppers repaired	3	
Electric wash coppers repaired	3	
Lavatory basin brackets repaired	1	
Draining boards - Repaired	3	
- Renewed	8	
Waste pipes repaired or unstoppped	11	
W.C. pans renewed	6	
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	5	
Perished W.C. cone joints renewed	7	
Plinths formed to rear edge of sinks	3	
New plugs supplied (sinks etc.)	2	
Water Waste Preventers - Repaired	5	
Renewed	7	64

424

Ø Notes

Included in the figure of Roofs Repaired were concrete flat roofs to outbuildings of two post war houses, where it was found that the top layer had crazed and lifted from the main slab. This top layer had to be completely renewed.

All the cases of Dampness Remedied referred to occurred in houses of the Housing Act 1919 Scheme. They were due to the external cavity walls being filled with mortar rubbish to above the level of the horizontal damp proof course, thus rendering the latter ineffective and a sure indication of negligence both in construction and supervision. Improvements were observed immediately after the cavities had been raked out.

Doors Weatherproofed. - The front entrance doors to the four wartime agricultural cottages were moved back to the rear of the existing porches in order to alleviate trouble caused by driving rain. The only alternative would have been to fit new doors which might possibly have led to future trouble due to warpage and shrinkage.

The range chimney pipes in the temporary hutments had always apparently been cause for complaint owing to the fact that the joints between chimneys and roofs were not properly watertight. In order to cure this trouble special flashings were made of a proprietary weatherproof material based on asbestos and bitumen.

Three of the kitchen ranges renewed were in the temporary hutments, the result most probably of their flooding by sea water.

A further twelve ranges were replaced by open fires under the scheme whereby the major costs involved are borne by the Council.

The six hearths repaired were all in the principal bedrooms of Airey houses and these repairs were necessitated by the fact that the tiled hearths were originally laid directly on the wooden floors.

In connection with the repairs to the site concrete which were carried out in one of the 1946 houses, the complaint received at the Office was to the effect that bellbine was growing through the sittingroom floor. It was found on investigation that the site concrete had not been made good properly to the external wall.

Ø Notes (Contd.)

Two complaints were received concerning woodworm infestations and both occurred in houses of the Housing Act 1919 Scheme. Fortunately the infestations were only minor and did not affect the structural timbers. Treatment was carried out by spraying the affected woodwork with a proprietary solution of Polychloronaphthalene.

The number of hot and cold water storage tanks renewed indicates that the "life" of these in the pre war housing schemes has now expired.

The existing cesspool serving two S.D.A.A. houses was converted to a septic tank installation with percolating filter and subsoil irrigation of the effluent.

A total of 28 properties was painted externally during the year under review, 107 visits being made in connection with the supervision of this work. The nine temporary hutments which were flooded to a depth of some $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet above floor level by the January floods had to be re-decorated in accordance with advice received from the Building Research Station.

Towards the end of the year steps were taken to amend the existing regulations and conditions of tenancy so as to make tenants responsible for certain minor items of repair, at the same time serving as an encouragement for the "handyman" to carry out his own.

Factories

33 visits were paid to factories and other premises. Four to the 10 non mechanical factories on the register, sixteen to the 23 mechanical factories and thirteen to the 9 other premises at which section 7 of the Factories Act 1937 is enforceable by this Council. In two instances (mechanical factories) informal action was taken in connection with the filthy condition of sanitary accommodation. Formal action was taken in three instances (mechanical factories) to secure effective lighting of sanitary accommodation and one case was also concerned with the condition of the accommodation. One case occurred at a building site, remedied within a few days, of absence of sanitary accommodation. Four instances of premises where the appropriate Notices were not posted up were reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Factories (Contd.)

Section 78 of the Essex County Council Act 1952 now empowers the Council to compel contractors engaged on building or constructional work not covered by Sections 107 and 108 of the Factories Act 1937 to provide sanitary conveniences for employees if it is reasonably practical to do so. In other words this Section will operate if the works in question are expected to be completed in a period of less than six weeks.

Houseboats and Jetties

Provisions of the Essex County Council Act 1952, relating to Houseboats and the Jetties providing access thereto, came into operation on 1st April 1953.

As from that date it became unlawful to moor or place any houseboat, or to place or erect any jetty providing access to a houseboat, within the District, without the Council's written consent.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites

Early in the year an additional caravan and camping site was licensed bringing the total to two. This figure of course excludes the site owned and maintained by the Council. The number of movable dwellings remained at four, one of these being used temporarily by contractors engaged on repairs to the sea wall.

The family referred to in the Report for 1952 as being overcrowded in a trailer type caravan on the Council's own site, were rehoused by the Council in February.

Rodent Control

The following Table is an analysis of inspections and visits made under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Rodent Control
(Contd.)

TABLE NO. VI

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agri- cultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
I Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	4	1314	27	162	1507
II Number of proper- ties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954 as a result of (a)	(a) --	17	1	1	19
notification, (b) survey under the Prevention of	(b) 4	154	22	50	230
Damage by Pests Act 1949, (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(c) -	309	-	104	413

The total number of properties inspected was 662, 19 as a result of notification. Details of these 19 complaints are as follows:-

Dwelling houses (including 1 Council House) 17

1 of rats found to be mice
3 of rats not proved
11 of rats
2 of mice

Agricultural Allotment Plot

1 of rats

Business premises

1 of mice

In addition infestations were discovered at:-

Dwelling houses 5 -- rats
Agricultural (Allotment Plots) 2 -- rats
Business 1 -- rats
Council (Sewage Disposal Works) - Rats on 3 occasions
during the year.

Rodent Control (Contd.)

The use of a proprietary preparation of absorbed sodium cyanide was continued at the Sewage Disposal Works.

A further instance occurred during the year of threshing taking place without the necessary fence being erected.

In view of experience obtained in previous years it was not found necessary to test bait 10% of the sewer manholes.

Shops

Delegated powers under the Shops Act 1950 with reference to sub-sections (3) (4) & (5) of Section 38 came into operation on the 1st September. These sub-sections are concerned with the provision and maintenance of:-

Suitable and sufficient means of lighting.
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities.
Suitable and sufficient facilities for the taking of meals (where persons employed about the business take any meals therein).

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953

1. Number of Houses erected during the year:-

(i)	By the Local Authority	22
(ii)	By Private Enterprise	<u>11</u>

33

2. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

1(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	82
------	---	----

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	99
-----	--	----

2(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	54
------	--	----

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	59
-----	--	----

3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
---	--	----

2. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year (Contd.)

- 4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 29

3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 15

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

A Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 3
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices
- (a) By Owners 1
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices 0

C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act 1936, and Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1952.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 6
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal action 2

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year (Contd.)

D Statutory undertakings - Section 11,
Housing Act 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of
which formal undertakings were given
by owners | 5 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were
completed under formal undertakings
by owners | 0 |

The year saw the completion of a pilot survey of housing, representative of some 237 tenanted properties with net ratable values up to and including £7. The average weekly rental was 7/11d. (maximum 11/9d, minimum 3/11d). .

113 of these properties were wholly brick built, 70 were timbered and 54 were of miscellaneous construction, i.e. partly brick and partly timber, or timbered with one or more elevations plastered.

The position with regard to water supply has been referred to elsewhere in this report.

Not one property was provided with a fixed bath.

65 properties were without sinks.

58 had a sink but no copper and 44 were without either.

In one instance one sink and copper served 4 properties.

A terrace of 6 bungalows was provided with not more than 3 closets.

7 properties were not provided with food storage accommodation but only 4 of the remainder had ventilated accommodation. Having regard to the provisions of Section 87 of the Essex County Council Act 1952, which requires the provision of sufficient and suitable accommodation for the storage of food if reasonably practicable, it would be possible to ventilate only 80.

At 14 houses the stairs made half a complete turn with not one straight stair.

Resulting from this survey it was recommended that some 37 properties should be dealt with under the Clearance Area Provisions of the Housing Act 1936 and, as will be seen from the above statistics, 5 formal undertakings to repair properties were accepted and 6 Closing Orders were made. A further 51 properties were considered to be capable of improvement as envisaged by the Housing Act 1949 and the Council was asked to consider the question of acquiring suitable blocks of these for that purpose.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Bakehouses

No formal action was necessary during the year in order to secure satisfactory conditions in the 3 bakehouses in the District.

Dairies

One of the two dairies (not being Dairy Farms) on the Register for the District ceased to be used as such at about mid year. The total number of visits paid during the year was two.

The following table shows the licences granted during the year for the sale of milk under special designation as provided by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949 to 1953:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk	- 1 Dealer's Licence
	- 1 Dealer's Supplementary
Pasteurised Milk	- 1 Dealer's Licence
	- 1 Dealer's Supplementary
Sterilised Milk	- 2 Dealer's Licences
	- 1 Dealer's Supplementary

The number of separate vendors concerned was three. In addition one other person was registered as a Milk Distributor under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and 1953 and retailed non designated milk only.

Ten samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, the Pasteurised Milks also being subject to the phosphatase test and results are indicated below:-

	Total Submitted	Failed
Tuberculin Tested Milk	3	1
Pasteurised Milk	3	0
Non Designated Milk	4	0

Dairies (Contd.)

The unsatisfactory report on the sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk was referred to the County Agricultural Executive Committee for their attention.

Registration of Food Premises

This is secured by Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938. 18 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, including one where ice cream is "manufactured" by reconstitution of a cold mix powder. The number of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale was three.

Registration of Manufacturers or Vendors of Ice Cream

This is secured by Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 and the number of persons so registered remained at 22.

Bacteriological Examinations

The Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. undertake bacteriological examinations in respect of water, ice cream and oysters for the Council through the Essex Bacteriological Laboratory Service. The bacteriological examination of samples of milk is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Westcliff Hospital.

During the year under review 46 samples were forwarded for examination, 19 being samples of drinking water (9 Public, 10 Private), 16 of ice cream, 10 of milk and 1 of oysters.

Ice Cream

The temperature of the ice cream conservators was checked at 16 of the 23 premises at which the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 to 1951 is enforceable. In no case was the maximum legal temperature exceeded.

The bacteriological results of ice cream samples are summarised below and it should be noted that the presence of B. coli was not detected in any.

<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>	<u>Not Classified</u>
8	-	1	-	7

It was not possible to follow up the Grade III sample as on each subsequent occasion when sampling was being carried out the vendor concerned had no ice cream in stock.

Ice Cream (Contd.)

The heading "Not Classified" relates to samples of fruit lollies and two (one from each of two different manufacturers) contained coliform organisms. A thorough investigation was made into the manufacturers' methods of sterilisation and preparation, and advice given where necessary. All subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Oysters

The sample of oysters referred to was taken in the late Autumn and readily satisfied the test by Eyres Method and passed Houston's Stringent Standard of Purity. No sample was taken in the Spring as extensive damage was done to the layings by the January Floods.

Meat and other Foods

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other articles of food found unfit for human consumption which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Tinned Foods etc.

No. of tins

Fruit	20
Fish	1
Soup	2
Tomato Juice	1
Milk	6
Cream	1
Meat	8

Other Foods

Lbs.

Sugar	} Damaged by sea water flooding and sewage.	{ 182
Butter		{ 14
Margarine		{ 10
Lard		{ 14
Raisins		{ 30
Figs		{ 20
Brawn		15 lbs. 11 ozs.
Bacon		13 lbs. 13 ozs.
Dog Fish (Rock Eel)		8½ stone
Dabs		2 stone
Skate		1 stone 9½ lbs.
Cat Fish		1½ stone
Cod		2 stone 3½ lbs.
Haddock		1 stone
Lemon Sole		1 stone
Wet Fillets		2 stone
Hake		1 stone 6½ lbs.

Other Foods (Contd.)

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of the undermentioned home killed and imported meat and offal.

	<u>Lbs.</u>
Beef	278
Mutton	156
Offal	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Some 21 lbs. of beef and 122 lbs. of Mutton, all prime quality home killed meat, was delivered to the retail Butchers in this District during the second week in August in a fly blown condition, the meat being heavily infested with larvae in all stages of development.

The matter was taken up very strongly with the Ministry of Food Area Meat Agent, as it was obvious that the meat was too long in transit. The reply received was to the effect that this had in fact been the case on that occasion owing to an unfortunate mistake, and that steps would be taken to prevent any recurrence.

